<u>SUPPLEMENTAL REMARKS</u>

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the brief communication with Applicant's representative concerning the mailing of the Notice. During that communication, Applicant's representative was not provided with any details regarding the contents of the Notice.

In the Notice, the Examiner requested additional remarks from the Applicant regarding the networking features disclosed by Suzuki. As currently pending, independent Claim 138 is directed to an output control apparatus communicating with an information processing apparatus via a network and controlling a printer, the output control apparatus. The apparatus includes print counting means for counting a print count value indicating a number of prints in response to delivery of a print sheet printed by the printer; first trouble counting means for counting a first trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles of the printer; second trouble counting means for counting a second trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles which occur until the print count value counted by the print counting means reaches a predetermined value; determination means for determining whether or not the print count value counted by the print counting means reaches the predetermined value; transmission control means for controlling transmission of trouble data including the second trouble count value counted by the second trouble counting means to the information processing apparatus via the network, without receiving a request for outputting the second trouble count value from the information processing apparatus, if the determination means determines that the print count value counted by the print counting means reaches the predetermined value; and initialization means for, if the determination means determines that the print count value counted by the print counting means reaches the predetermined value, initializing the second trouble count value counted by the second trouble counting means, without accepting a manual operation by the user.

The second trouble counting means repeatedly counts the number of print troubles which occur for the number of prints of the predetermined value.

The claims feature a second counting means that counts a second trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles which occur until the print count value reaches a predetermined value. The functionality of the second counting means is disclosed in the specification in Fig. 28, step S3017, operation "TRB-CNT+1." The claims have also been amended to clarify that the transmission control means controls transmission of trouble data including the second trouble count value to the information processing apparatus via the network, without receiving a request for outputting the second trouble count value from the information processing apparatus, if the determination means determines that the print count value reaches the predetermined value as shown in Fig. 28, step S3014, operation "1 -> F." Furthermore, the claims have been amended to clarify that the initialization means initializes the second trouble count value (as shown in Fig. 28, step S3014, operation 0->TRB-CNT), if the determination means determines that the print count value reaches the predetermined value. Finally, the claims have been amended to recite that the second trouble counting means repeatedly counts the number of print troubles which occur for the number of prints of the predetermined value as described on Page 20, Line 64, through Page 21, Line 1 of the specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Clark and Suzuki, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the output control apparatus of Claim 138. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of the second trouble counting means which repeatedly counts the number of print troubles which occur for the number of prints of the predetermined value. By virtue of this feature, the output control apparatus can supply a print

trouble or problem count for a predetermined number of pages printed by a printer. For example, assume the second trouble counting means counts the number of printing problems which occur every 100 printed pages, and the printer receives print job A with 50 pages, print job B with 40 pages, print job C with 30 pages and print job D with 100 pages. In this case, the second trouble counting means counts the number of print problems which occur during the printing of all 50 pages of the print job A, all 40 pages of the print job B and the first 10 pages of the print job C. The counter is then reset and then counts the number of print problems during the printing of the last 20 pages of the print job C and the first 80 pages of the print job D, and so on. Namely, the second trouble counting means always counts the number of printing problems which occur every 100 print sheets in the plurality of print jobs. Thus a data processing apparatus coupled to the output control apparatus may be able to discern a print problem frequency per printed page as to merely finding out a total of print problems starting from some unknown time.

The deficiencies of Clark have been previously discussed.

Turning now to Suzuki, Suzuki discloses different types of status information communicated from a copy machine. Suzuki discloses that for a group of copying machines, various status data may be transmitted. The status data may include department account data A, charge data B based on count meters of the copying machines, physical distribution data D on the number of copies made per type of paper in each copying machine, and maintenance data N on items such as the number of toner replacements, the number of jams, the starting time and ending time of use for each day, and the number of operations.

Applicant has again reviewed Suzuki and notes that the term "network" is only used in the claims and is not found in the actual detailed description of the invention. Furthermore, the only "network" disclosed in Suzuki is a "communication line (extension

telephone line)" that is used to communicate status information from the printer. Given this brief use of the term "network" in Suzuki, it is impossible for Applicant to say anything more about Suzuki than what applicant has already stated. Namely, Suzuki fails to disclose a second counting means that counts a second trouble count value indicating a number of print troubles which occur until the print count value reaches a predetermined value, the determination means, the transmission control means; and the initialization means of Claim 138. This is regardless of whether or not Suzuki discloses communications over a network between a data processing apparatus and a printer.

Thus, Clark and Suzuki, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of amended independent Claim 138. In light of this deficiency in Clark and Suzuki, Applicant again submits that amended independent Claim 138 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 142 and 146 are directed to a method and a memory medium, respectively, corresponding to the apparatus of Claim 138. Therefore, Applicant again submits that Claims 142 and 146 are also now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Frank Cire Reg. No. #42,419/
Frank L. Cire

Attorney for Applicant

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200